

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 08845

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, US, NATO
SUBJECT: CEP: POSTPONEMENT OF SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (SCEPC) DECEMBER 1977 PLENARY MEETING

REF: (A) AC/98-DS/121, (B) USNATO 8255, DTG 301211Z AUG 77
(NOTAL)

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 2 BELOW THE TEXT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM (UK) CEP OFFICER'S (CLEGHORN) LETTER TO THE
CHAIRMAN, SCEPC, SUPPORTING THE NETHERLANDS (NL) PROPOSAL
(REF B) FOR POSTPONEMENT OF SCEPC MEETING, IN PLENARY
SESSION, SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 13-14. THIS ITEM WILL BE
DISCUSSED UNDER "ANY OTHER BUSINESS" DURING THE SEPTEMBER
27 MEETING OF THE SCEPC IN PERMANENT SESSION.

2. BEGIN TEXT -

1. IN HIS LETTER OF 26 AUGUST TO YOU, MR. HOFMAN OF THE
NETHERLANDS DELEGATION PROPOSED THAT THE PLENARY SESSION
OF THE SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ARRANGED
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FOR 13-14 DECEMBER 1977 SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY
1978. I HAVE CONSULTED MY AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE NO OBJEC-
TION TO THE PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT.

2. I AM COPYING THIS LETTER TO ALL DELEGATION CEP OFFICERS,
TO MR DEVEGLIA OF THE CEP DIRECTORATE AND TO MR SYNADINOS
OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. END TEXT.

3. AS STATED IN PARA 4, REF B, WE BELIEVE THAT THE POST-PONEMENT OF THE SCHEDULED PLENARY SESSION COULD UN-NECESSARILY DELAY DECISIONS NEEDED BY THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS OF THE PLANNING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (PB&CS) IN SUPPORT OF THE LONG RANGE DEFENSE INITIATIVES. THIS MAY RESULT IN THE "CIVIL SIDE" BEING UNRESPONSIVE TO THE PRIORITY WORK ESTABLISHED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) AND DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE (DPC). FURTHER, WE BELIEVE OTHER RATIONALE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED POST-PONEMENT EXPRESSED IN PARA 4, REF B, REMAINS VALID.

4. DURING PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL STAFF CEP DIRECTOR (DEVEGLIA) AND MISSION CEP OFFICER ON SEPTEMBER 15, DEVEGLIA STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE POSTPONEMENT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND FELT THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE US, MOST DELEGATIONS SUPPORTED THE NL PROPOSAL. DEVEGLIA SUGGESTED THAT IF WE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT, WE SHOULD GO TO CAPITALS BY NATO-WIDE AND ADVISE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR DISAGREEMENT. IN DEVEGLIA'S OPINION THIS WOULD REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE IN CAPITALS AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING OF THE SCEPC IN PERMANENT SESSION.

5. WE RECOMMEND THE COURSE OF ACTION SUGGESTED BY DEVEGLIA
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IN PARA 4 ABOVE BE CONSIDERED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND/OR GUIDANCE.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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